

## SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING CONTINGENT RELEVANCE

### CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application is a Continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/811,488, filed Nov. 13, 2017, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,943,273, issued Mar. 9, 2021, which is a Continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/771,182, filed on Feb. 3, 2004, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,818,136, issued Nov. 14, 2017, which claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/445,346, filed Feb. 5, 2003. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/811,488 is a Continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/089,022 filed on Nov. 25, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,163,137, issued Dec. 25, 2018, which is a Division of Continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/837,502 filed on Jul. 16, 2010, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,600,830, issued Dec. 3, 2013, which claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/445,346. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/089,022 is a Division of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/837,504 filed on Jul. 16, 2010, now Pending, which also claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/445,346. Each of the foregoing are expressly incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] A number of fields of endeavor are relevant to the present invention, and exemplary prior art, incorporated herein by reference, are disclosed below. The references disclosed provide a skilled artisan with embodiments of elements of the present invention, and the teachings therein may be combined and subcombined in various manners in accordance with the present teachings. The topical headings are advisory only, and are not intended to limit the applicability of any reference. While some embodiments are discussed as being preferred, it should be understood that all embodiments discussed, in any portion of this documents, whether stated as having advantages or not, form a part of the invention and may be combined and/or subcombined in a consistent manner in accordance with the teachings hereof.

[0003] INTERNET: The Internet is structured such various networks are interconnected, with communications effected by addressed packets conforming to a common protocol. Based on the packet addressing, information is routed from source to destination, often through a set of networks having multiple potential pathways. The communications medium is shared between all users. Statistically, some proportion of the packets are extraordinarily delayed, or simply lost. Therefore, protocols involving communications using these packets include error detection schemes that request a retransmit of required data not received within a time window. In the event that the network nears capacity or is otherwise subject to limiting constraint, the incidence of delayed or lost packets increases, thereby increasing requests for retransmission and retransmission. Therefore, as the network approaches available bandwidth, the load increases, ultimately leading to failure. In instances where a minimum quality of service must be guaranteed, special Internet technologies are required, to reserve bandwidth or to specify network pathways. End-to-end quality of service guarantees, however, may exceed the cost of circuit

switched technologies, such as dialup modems, especially where the high-quality needs are intermittent.

[0004] Internet usage typically involves an Internet server, an automated system capable of responding to communications received through the Internet, and often communicating with other systems not directly connected to the Internet. The server typically has relatively large bandwidth to the Internet, allowing multiple simultaneous communications sessions, and usually supports the hypertext transport protocol (HTTP), which provides, in conjunction with a so-called web browser on a remote client system, a human readable interface which facilitates navigation of various resources available on the Internet. The client systems are typically human user interfaces, which employ a browser to display HTTP "web pages". The browser typically does not provide intelligence. Bandwidth between the client and Internet is typically relatively small, and various communications and display rendering considered normal. Typically, both client and server are connected to the Internet through Internet service providers, each having its own router.

[0005] It is also known to provide so-called proxy servers and firewalls, which are automated systems that insulate the client system from the Internet. Further, so-called Internet applications and applets are known which provide local intelligence at the client system. Further, it is known to provide a local server within the client system for locally processing a portion of the information. These local servers, applications and applets are non-standard, and thus require special software to be available locally for execution.

[0006] Thus, the Internet poses a number of advantages for commercial use, including low cost and ubiquitous connectivity. Therefore, it is desirable to employ standard Internet technologies while achieving sufficient quality communications to affect an efficient transaction.

[0007] MARKET ECONOMY SYSTEMS: In modern retail transactions, predetermined price transactions are common, with market transactions, i.e., commerce conducted in a setting which allows the transaction price to float based on the respective valuation allocated by the buyer(s) and seller(s), often left to specialized fields. While interpersonal negotiation is often used to set a transfer price, this price is often different from a transfer price that might result from a best-efforts attempt at establishing a market price. Assuming that the market price is optimal, it is therefore assumed that alternatives are sub optimal. Therefore, the establishment of a market price is desirable over simple negotiations.

[0008] One particular problem with market-based commerce is that both seller optimization and market efficiency depend on the fact that representative participants of a preselected class are invited to participate, and are able to promptly communicate, on a relevant timescale, in order to accurately value the goods or services and make an offer. Thus, in traditional market-based system, all participants are in the same room, or connected by a high-quality telecommunications link. Alternately, the market valuation process is prolonged over an extended period, allowing non-real time communications of market information and bids. Thus, attempts at ascertaining a market price for non-commodity goods can be subject to substantial inefficiencies, which reduce any potential gains by market pricing. Further, while market pricing might be considered "fair", it also imposes an element of risk, reducing the ability of parties to predict